

Requirements met at the plant are more stringent than requirements on bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Your Right to Know

Water is one of the most vital elements in our lives, so we must have confidence in its safety and quality.

The U.S. Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974, and reauthorized it in 1986 and 1996. The EPA and states develop and enforce drinking water regulations to protect public health. Emporia's drinking water meets or surpasses these standards.

Commonly Asked Water Quality Questions

What are Cryptosporidium and Giardia?

Is our Water supply at risk?

What is the City doing?

Cryptosporidium and *Giardia* are protozoan parasites that occur in natural surface waters such as lakes, rivers and streams.

Ingesting *Cryptosporidium* oocysts can cause an illness called Cryptosporidiosis. Symptoms of this illness include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, fever and headache.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The water treatment process used at the City of Emporia facility provides multiple barriers including lime softening, clarification, disinfection, filtration, and the management of filtration procedures which lower the risk of protozoan parasites in finished water. **OZONE** is our primary disinfectant which destroys bacteria, giardia, cryptosporidium, tastes and odors.

Current regulations provide a treatment technique for *Giardia* removal and inactivation under the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). There is no current regulation for *Cryptosporidium*.

What is Atrazine?

How does it get into water?

How do you know if herbicides are a problem in our drinking water?

Atrazine is a widely used herbicide that is used to control weeds in the production of corn and sorghum. Atrazine and other herbicides are applied before and after planting, and are also used in urban areas to control weeds along railways.

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Atrazine in drinking water is 3 micrograms per Liter (ug/L) using a running annual average. Samples collected quarterly for Atrazine in drinking water have not exceeded the MCL, and therefore, the City of Emporia continues to remain in compliance with the Federal and State requirements.

Does the City test the drinking water for Lead and Copper?

How can Lead and Copper get into your water? What is the City doing?

The Water Plant Personnel collects samples from the Water Treatment facility and in the City's water distribution system.

Regulatory requirements for the collection of Lead and Copper became effective in 1992 for semi-annual sampling. Follow-up monitoring for Lead and Copper was conducted in 2004.

Because of our successful treatment process, we have shown through past sampling **Lead and Copper is not a problem in Emporia**. Therefore, we are on the reduced monitoring program of testing once every three years.

To date, samples collected from City taps have not exceeded the Action Level (AL). The AL for Lead is 0.015 milligrams per Liter (mg/L) and 1.3 mg/L for Copper. If the AL was exceeded, the public would be notified.

Landlords, businesses and schools are encouraged to share this report with non-billed users at their locations. To obtain additional copies free of charge, call us at (620) 343-4244. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.